Pakistan's Talks with China

1726. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER- be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Asian Age, dated 19th May, 1998 under the heading "Pakistan begins talks with China";

(b) if so, what are the details of the decision arrived at between the two countries; and

(c) what is Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have seen statements by the Chinese Foreign Ministry official spokesman wherein he has described the talks as part of routine consultations between China and Pakistan. It is understood that the two countries held an extensive exchange of views on international questions and relevant security questions. The Pakistan Foreign Secretary, who led the Pakistani delegation, has also noted that the visit was an important facet of Pakistan's consultations with al! major powers, and that Pakistan and China enjoyed close cooperative relations. He has also stated, following the visit, that there was complete identity of views between Pakistan and China.

(c) Government have noted both the context and timing of the talks, as also the statements made by both sides during and after the talks. Government continue to carefully watch and monitor the situation, and are resolved to take all steps necessary to safequard the national interests of India.

Reaction of public on Nuclear Tests

1727. SHRI JOYANTA ROY:
SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has got complete feed back about the reactions of different sections of people in the country to the recent nuclear explosions;

(b) if so, what is his assessment of the overall reaction of the people;

(c) whether it is a fact that a dominant section of the elites, scientists and intellectuals have a negative reaction to the Bomb blasts which are, st best regarded, as political gimmicks for the benefit of the party in power; and

(d) if so, what steps are proposed to neutralize the negative effects of the recent blasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) According to media reports on opinion polls conducted, the people of India have reacted to the nuclear tests with a sense of national pride and self-confidence.

(c) Government have also seen reports critical of Government's decision and the true expression of such views of a small section demonstrates the strong democratic traditions.

(d) Government have sought to — (a) explain our legitimate security concerns behind the decision to undertake the nuclear tests; (b) re-affirm that we are a responsible member of the international community and that our policies are marked by a high degree of restraint; (c) highlight our commitment to maintaining peace with stability in the region and beyond; and maintain our policy of taking initiatives for negotiations for global nuclear disarmament.

Recommendations of Indo-German Consultative Group

1728. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the high powered Indo-German Consultative Group has recently submitted its recommendations to enhance bilateral co-operation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?